

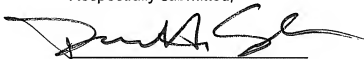
III. Remarks

By this amendment, applicants have amended claims 53-59 to change "fuel cell system" to the generic "electrochemical system." See the specification, for example, at page 1 lines 3-5 and at page 9 line 31 through page 10 line 14. Claim 54 has also been amended to correct a typographical error. See the specification at page 12 lines 22-24. New claims 62 and 63 have been added to define the electrochemical system as either a fuel cell system or electrochemical compressor system, respectively. The remaining claims have been cancelled. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

All of the pending claims 53-59, 62 and 63 encompass the elected invention.

Applicants have made the above election of species to comply with 35 U.S.C. 121 for the sole purpose of prosecution on the merits. Applicants' election should not be construed in any way to limit the scope or spirit of any of the embodiments of the present invention disclosed in the application. It is now believed that an action on the merits is in order and such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald A. Schurr", is written over a horizontal line.

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